

Greenville Miss.
Democrat-Times
May 30, 1941

Letters To The Editor

"WILLING AT ANY TIME"

215 Muschelle St.
Greenville, Miss.
May 28, 1941.

To The Editor of The
Delta Democrat-Times:

It was with deepest regrets and
aching heart that I read your edi-
torial, "False Pride and Ingrati-
tude" in yesterday's edition of
the Delta Democrat-Times.

I have been a citizen of our fair
city 18 years today and I am
proud that I have had the privi-
lege of receiving my education
through the high school here, and
that I have enjoyed and am en-
joying living in Greenville, which
is known throughout Mississippi
and the South for its understand-
ing between Negro and white citi-
zens. I am a teacher in the Washington county school
system and reporter for the Wash-
ington County "Colored Teachers"
association. Ours is a group of
about 200 civic minded Negroes,
most of us residing in this city,
who are willing at any time to
cooperate with our white friends
to make Greenville a bigger and
better place in which to live.

I know nothing of leaders in the
Negro celebrations but I do know
that in the celebration in 1938 I
won the second prize in the essay
contest for teachers and received
\$20. The other winners said they
received their awards. In the re-
cent Cotton Makers Jubilee I only
helped to decorate the Washington
county schools' float which won
first place in the parade.

The general Negro public and
the colored teachers of Washing-
ton county did not know of the
request of the Directors of the
pageant. Such activities as ear-
ning cotton and portraying slaves
are beneath the dignity of no
loyal, civic-minded, race-loving
Negro. The majority of the
Greenville Negroes are really
proud of the part the Negro has
played in the building of the Del-
ta and are anxious to help Greenvi-
lle and the Delta continue to

It is my humble request that
you will please publish this let-
ter in order that our white friends
may see that the Greenville Negro
public greatly appreciates their
liberal support and that we as
a race group more than appre-
ciate their efforts to promote bet-
ter understanding between the
Negro and white races in these
perilous times.

JUANITA C. ROBINSON.

MISUNDERSTOOD

To The Editor of The
Delta Democrat-Times:

We, the colored citizens of
Greenville regret that our worthy
editor with misunderstanding fail-
ed to know the Negro of Green-
ville as he really is. We are proud
to state here and now that all
Negroes are not the same. It
wasn't because we didn't want to
do our part in the Water Carni-
val, but our so-called leaders
have misled us so long until we
are afraid that should we take
part in any public affair our so-
called leaders will come back and
tell us there was a deficit. There-
fore, be it known to our many
white friends that we are certain
and positive that we can serve in
any capacity in, or to which we
are called and are willing to give
our labor and talent to any and
all causes to this the Great Delta
of which we are a part.

S. J. DAVIS.

11-1941
Charlotte, N. C. Observer
October 16, 1941

Negro Cotton Ball Attended By 3,000

Festival to Close Today After Four Days Of Celebration—
Fashion Awards Made at Big Dance In Armory—27
Units In Trade Street Parade.

Cotton was king again last night at the Negro Cotton festival as women and children who wore the most fashionable cotton dresses and clothing were awarded cotton-goods prizes during an intermission at the Grand Cotton ball, highlight of the four-day celebration.

Buford Gordon, Jr., and Helensecond, Beverley Kelly, third. Jose-Wise, king and queen of the fes-lyn Pate; sports wear, first Eldora tival, presented the prizes to the Jackson, second, Sarah Byers; 12 winners in five classes who sports and street wear, Evelyn Hill; wore the outstanding creations at evening dresses, first, Blanche Mills, the fashion competition on Tues-second, Johnny Mae Oliphant, third, day night. Birdie Suggs.

Although the festival is not of- At 8:30 p. m., special entertain- ficially completed until tonight, the ment was presented in the Armory consisting of a play, "Cotton Pick- climax of the cotton show came ing Time," a 50-voice choir and last night when more than 3,000 Negroes attended the dance in the some Greensboro entertainers. Four Armory. The couples swayed and majorettes and some jitterbugs jitterbugged around the floor to formed the Greensboro portion of the show. Eugene Potts was the master of ceremonies.

BIG PARADE. The dance followed the entertain- ment and at 12 o'clock the king and queen of the festival led the yesterday afternoon when a 27-unit grand march.

Another festival event which at- tracted widespread attention came and queen of the festival led the parade marched and rolled through the city while large crowds watch- end today with the presentation of a technicolor motion picture, ed from both sides of Trade street "Threads of the Nation," at the along the line of march to the Grand theater. The Negro Cham- Armory. ber members will see a preview performance at 3:15 p. m., and the others will see it at night.

There were several outstanding attractions in the parade including the West Charlotte High school band with its high-stepping drum, bajors, the Carolina Times patri- otic float, and the I. M. P. O. E. of W. float depicting Negro women spinning cotton on the old fashion- ed spinning wheels, the Fairview Homes recreation float which show- ed cotton bales and children pick- ing cotton, the Negro Chamber of Commerce float on which rode 20 girls in white dresses, the festival float showing a scene entitled "Lift- ing the Veil," the Afro-American emergency clinic and the Red Cross float.

A delegation from Greensboro was also in the parade.

AWARDS GIVEN.

The fashion awards were pre- sented to the following women and children: children's clothes, first, Carolyn McKnight, second, Doris Pharr, third, twin babies; misses dresses, first, Nannie B. Patterson

NORTH CAROLINA
Charlotte, N. C. Observer
October 12, 1941

Negro Cotton Fete Begins Monday Night

Motorcade Will Precede For-
mal Opening Set For A. M.
E. Zion Church.

What is billed as "the world's first Negro cotton festival" will be launched on its four-day run here to- morrow night at 8 o'clock with Mayor E. McA. Currie scheduled to deliver the wel- coming address at A. M. E. Zion church on South Bre- vard street.

C. A. Irwin, executive director of the sectional pageant, announced yesterday that a promotional motor- cade through Mecklenburg and ad- joining counties will precede to- morrow night's ceremony, with residents of the area visited invit- ed to take part in the festivities which will end with showing of a documentary moving picture on Thursday evening.

John W. Mitchell, state extension agent with offices in Greensboro, will be the principal speaker for the opening ceremony at which lo- cal Negroes Buford Gordon, Jr., and Helen Wise will be crowned king and queen of cotton.

Others on the initial porgram in- clude Attorney J. S. Bowser; Pro- fessor Clinton Blake, principal of West Charlotte High school; Rev. J. W. Smith, pastor of the Seventh Street Presbyterian church; and Rev. I. H. Jackson, pastor of the host church.

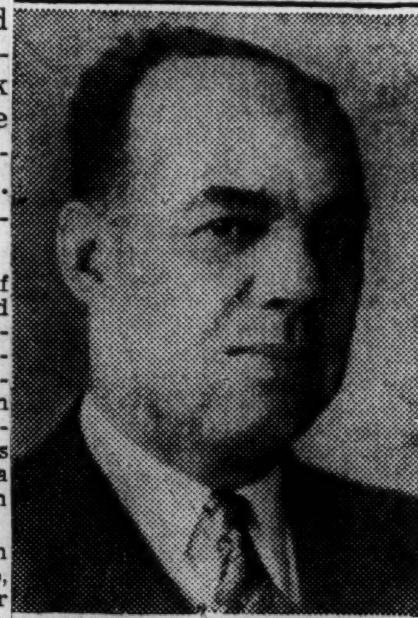
On Tuesday, another motorcade is scheduled to precede an evening fashion show beginning at 8 o'clock in the Second Ward High school, with prizes offered for the best cotton costumes.

Climax of the festival is set for Wednesday, with an afternoon street parade at 4 o'clock slated to be composed of numerous floats and other displays portraying the Ne- gro's contribution to the agricultural and industrial South. After the parade, a chorus of 50 voices will present a musical drama titled "Cotton Picking Time," and, on the

same evening, a Cotton Ball honor- ing the king and queen with their court will be staged in the Armory- Auditorium, Jimmie Gunn and his Serenaders furnishing the music.

"Threads of a Nation," an all col- or movie depicting the evolution of cotton from raw material to finish-

SPEAKER



JOHN W. MITCHELL.

product, will conclude the enter- tainment on Thursday evening.

Dr. S. C. Pyle is general chair- man of the festival, which is spon- sored by the Charlotte Negro Chamber of Commerce.

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TENNESSEE

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
May 17, 1941

Hip-Swinging Rhythm Provides Fun Of Cotton Makers Jubilee

MEMPHIS, May 16. (AP)—The moaning throb of "the Washington" tonight called dark-complexioned merrymakers to the grand jubilee ball, the final frenzied event of the Cotton Makers' jubilee—Negro section of the Memphis Cotton Carnival.

"The Washington"—A hip-swinging rhythm designed to put the Latin La Conga in the shade—was "invented" especially for tonight's event by Professor Nat Williams, the jubilee's master of ceremonies.

The ball followed the Darkies' parade, led by their king and queen, Dr. John E. Burke, Forrest City, Ark., dentist, and 18-year-old Thelma Margaret Young. The dusky royalty were crowned Wednesday night by the first jubilee queen and last year's king, who quoted poetry as the couple debouched from their "streamlined" golden hansom (with electric lights inside so everyone could see them), after the coronation parade.

Today's main event of the white folks' carnival, which continued through Sunday, was the annual children's parade. A noon luncheon honored mayors of numerous towns in Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
May 18, 1941

BEALE STREET TO HUM AT CARNIVAL OPENING

Its Children's Royalty To Be Crowned Tonight

Beale Street will hum with added activity tonight as the negro section of the Cotton Carnival—the Cotton-Makers Jubilee—is officially opened with the coronation of its children's king and queen.

Heralded as the "greatest colored show in the Nation," the jubilee will feature the crowning of the adult king and queen tomorrow night, followed by parades and motorcades in honor of King John Burke and Queen Thelma Young Thursday and Friday.

Highlight of the entire jubilee will come Friday night with the grand parade, beginning at 8

o'clock at Mississippi and Polk, and the grand jubilee ball at 10 o'clock at Beale Avenue Park Auditorium.

Negro visitors from throughout the MidSouth will gather for the four-day program and representatives will participate from Tupelo, Okolona, Greenville and Greenwood, Miss., Blytheville, Osceola, Marianna, Helena and Forrest City, Ark., and Covington, Dyersburg, Jackson, Brownsville, Moscow and Somerville, Tenn.

"Queens" from these towns will ride the floats in the grand parade as merrymakers and costumed jesters celebrate the jubilee.